Disparity in the Cost Estimates of Power Projects

3839. SHRI GAYA SINGH :

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a wide disparity in the cost estimates of the Ministry of Power and Central Electricity Authority for some power projects; and

(b) if so, what are the projects under construction cost estimated by the Ministry and the CEA and the reasons for wide disparity, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Foreign Investment in Power Sector in Sikkim

3840. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement for investment in power generation has been signed between India and some foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the terms of reference of such agreements ;

(c) whether power generation programmes with foreign investment are also proposed to be undertaken in Sikkim;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) No agreements are signed with foreign countries for investment proposals from foreign private parties in power generation. Prospective investors directly offer proposals to the State Electricity Boards either in response to an invitation for bid or through negotiations.

(b) 75 offers of interest from private sector companies including 35 from foreign investors/NRIs have been received for setting up power plants in India. The terms of agreement are finalised with the promoter by the State Electricity Board concerned under the policy framework prepared by the Government of India.

(c) to (e) Sikkim Government have advertised the following projects for implementation by private sector companies. Response is awaited :—

1. Teesta St. V (660 MW).
2. Teesta-III (1200 MW).

Suspension of World Bank Loan to NTPC

3841. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has suspended disbursement of $ 2.5 billion worth of committed credit loans;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Cabinet Secretary had called an emergency meeting in the second week of March, 1994 with Power Ministry and NTPC officials alongwith the Chief Secretaries and Chairmen of State Electricity Boards to resolve the crisis ;

(c) if so, whether the country's capacity addition effort in the power sector is expected to suffer severe blow due to World Bank's money being stopped ;

(d) if so, what are the main points of difference between World Bank and the NTPC;

(e) what efforts have been made to meet their demands and restore the cut made by the World Bank ; and

(f) what is the present stage of progress on Farakka, Talcher, Anta and Dadri projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) Though the World Bank has not formally suspended disbursements under the ongoing loans to the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for the National Capital Thermal Power Project (840 MW) (NCPT). Farakka Super Thermal Power Project Stage II (1000 MW) and the Talcher Super Thermal Power Project (1000 MW), disbursements have not been made after 28-2-94. The undisbursed amount is approximately US $ 331 million.

(b) A meeting was taken by the Cabinet Secretary on 17th March, 1994 to discuss accounts receivables of NTPC and Power Grid Corporation of India.

(d) The main course of action is NTPC's inability to contain its accounts receivables from purchasers of power to the equivalent of two months billing as covenanted with the Bank by NTPC. In addition, the tariff for NTPC's gas-based power stations and for NCTPP and Unchahar coal-based stations have to be notified and Bulk Power Supply Agreements (BPSAs) for the remaining Northern Region have to be signed by 30th April, 1994.

(c) and (e) Strenuous efforts are being made to demonstrate that NTPC can contain its accounts receivable to the covenanted levels on a sustained basis and these include persuading States to liquidate arrears, fully pay current billing, increase LC coverage etc. BPSAs have been entered into with all the States of the Northern Region. The tariff for NCTPP and Unchahar coal-based stations have been notified. The tariff for gas-based stations are in an advanced stage of finalisation. With these actions it is expected that the disbursements would recommence otherwise NTPC's investment programme would be adversely affected.

(f) All the units of Farakka Stage-I of 600 MW (3×200 MW), Farakka Stage-II of 1000 MW (2×500 MW), Anta Gas Power Project Stage-I of 413 MW (3×88 MW Gas Turbine and 1×149 MW Steam Turbine), National Capital Thermal Power Project of 840 MW (4×210 MW) at Delhi, and the Dadri Gas Based Power Project Stage-I of 817 MW (4×131 MW Gas Turbine and 2×146.5 MW Steam Turbine) have been commissioned.

The 2×500 MW units of Talcher Project are scheduled for commissioning in June, 1994 and in June, 1995 respectively.

Indian Entrepreneurs in Power Sector

3842. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to encourage Indian entrepreneurs to build power plants by arranging easier finance for them;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals;

(c) how many entrepreneurs failed to receive approvals for power plants in last two years, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the system of selecting and screening the applicants to establish power stations will be reviewed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The Government policy to encourage private participation in power is meant for Indian entrepreneurs as well as foreign entrepreneurs. The responsibility to arrange finance is that of the promoter.

(c) No proposal in which all inputs/clearances were tied up and the cost found reasonable was rejected by Central Electricity Authority. In the last 2 years, proposals for setting up 21 thermal power projects and 6 hydro-electric projects in private sector were received by CEA. Out of these 7 (seven) projects have been accorded CEA's clearance subject to certain conditions. The remaining schemes would be taken up for CEA's techno-economic clearance after the promoters furnish the necessary clearance/inputs required for examining the proposal.

(d) The private power policy is reviewed from time to time as and when necessity arises.

राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम के कामगारों को स्वैच्छिक सेवानिवृत्ति होने पर अनुग्रह राशि का भुगतान किया जाना

3843. **श्री नारायण प्रसाद गुप्ता** : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री 22 फरवरी, 1994 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न सं० 182 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार एक बार समझौता हो जाने के पश्चात् कामगारों को सभी देय राशियों के शीघ्र भुगतान के लिए रुग्ण वस्त्र मिलों के परिसमापन की कार्यविधि को संशोधन करके रुग्ण औद्योगिक कम्पनी (विशेष उपबंध) अधिनियम, 1985 में ही शामिल करने का विचार रखती है?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकट स्वामी) : स्वैच्छिक सेवानिवृत्ति योजना सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उद्यमों की फालतू जन-शक्ति को कम करने के लिए शुरू की गई है तथा इसका उन वस्त्र मिलों के कामगारों को अन्तिम बकाया राशि का भुगतान करने से कोई सरोकार नहीं है जोकि परिसमापन का सामना कर रही हैं।